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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application No.: 09/871,324  
Filing Date: May 31, 2001  
Applicant: Wnek et al  
Group Art Unit: 1725  
Examiner: Jonathan Johnson  
Title: ANTI-SIDE SPLICE WELDER (as amended)  
Attorney Docket: 4348-000119/DVA

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Director of The United States Patent and Trademark Office  
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**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 4, 2004, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks set forth below.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.